

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Literature and Composition**  
**Pope High School**  
**Ms. Ragland**  
**Room 308**

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<http://bragland.wikispaces.com>

**Course description:**

This course, designed for the college-bound student, is a genre-based study of language, literature, and composition that will provide students with the opportunity to gain experience in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking. Our units of study will include nonfiction, short stories, novels, drama, and poetry. Students will develop strategies for writing in a variety of modes, acquire new vocabulary, engage in standardized test preparation, and gain experience in using technology this semester. Students will be expected to participate daily in discussions, independent work, and group work in class to develop their critical and analytical thinking skills. This honors course is appropriate for students who are highly motivated, have a high level of achievement and possess a strong work ethic.

**Class Requirements:**

Refer to the class wiki: <http://bragland.wikispaces.com/>

**Required Textbooks:**

*Prentice Hall Literature:* (we have a class set)  
*Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary Workbook* level E (unit study every two weeks)

**Summer Readings:**

Students are expected to participate in class discussion, VoiceThread comments, and complete the required assessment demonstrating knowledge and analysis of the texts. The test is Monday, August 22, 2012. You may use your text if they are annotated.

**Parallel readings:**

- 1) *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles
- 2) *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom
- 3) *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

**Fall semester Major Compositions:**

1. Personal Narrative
2. Annotated Bibliography
3. Classification Essay
4. Poetry Analysis

**Fall semester Units**

1. Short Stories
2. Nonfiction
3. Poetry

**Attendance and Make-up Work:**

If a student must be absent, he or she is responsible for checking the class blog to obtain any assignments. All quizzes or tests missed must be made up within one week of the assignment date to receive credit. **It is the student's responsibility to arrange time for make-up work.** See county policy.

**Late Work:**

Every assignment should be turned in on the due date. You should talk with me before/after school if you foresee a problem with completing an assignment on time. Late assignments are penalized 10 points each day and are not accepted after the 5th day for credit.

**Videos:**

We may occasionally view curriculum related films and film clips (G, PG, and PG-13 only) from the media center. A parent's signature on this syllabus indicates permission for your son or daughter to view these movies.

**Standards Based Grading Policy:**

Point values for assignments will vary based on length, complexity and effort of each assignment (i.e. not every assignment is worth 100 points).

Categories:

- 30% Reading and Literature/Reading Comprehension (includes summative assessments on literature units)
- 30% Writing and Conventions (includes essay assignments and research project)
- 5% Listening, Speaking, and Viewing (includes performance assessments such as Literature Circles)
- 5% Common formative assessments
- 10% Vocabulary
- 20% Final Exam

**Academic Integrity:**

If a student plagiarizes or copies another's work, the student will receive a parent phone call, "U" in conduct, discipline referral, X-block detention, and alternate assignment. A second offense continues with ISS and zero on the assignment.

**Extra Help:**

Extra help is available in the mornings and during AO in Room 308. Students may also receive help by appointment. If you are having trouble with an assignment, do not hesitate to talk with me about your concerns. I am here to help you succeed.

**Technology Etiquette:**

No technology devices will be visible during class unless provided permission. Do not have cell phones on the desk or anywhere for use during class time. At times students will use cell phones for class instruction to enhance learning. Use of cell phones during class is a distraction and a privilege. Unauthorized use of a cell phone will result in a parent phone call, teacher detention, and additional consequences for continued use.

Students are expected to treat others with respect at all times, follow the rules within the Pope High School handbook, and abide by the county mandates. Tardiness and excessive absenteeism will be reported to grade-level administrator and parents and can disrupt learning.

The Pope High School English Department believes that students should uphold the high ethical standards that are expected in all classes. Your signature represents your agreement to abide by these standards. Please read the following carefully before you and your parent sign on the appropriate lines on the next page.

**I will refrain from passing or sharing information on tests and quizzes during or after class through any means.**

**I will refrain from cheating of any kind during tests and quizzes.**

**I will refrain from unauthorized sharing of work.**

**I will refrain from plagiarism.**

**I will not submit another student's work as my own for either practice or performance standards.**

*Parents and Students,  
I am looking forward to a very successful and productive semester! Please read the documents above carefully. Please sign below indicating that you have read and understood the syllabus, classroom expectations and behavior expectations. Students, please keep the policies information in your class notebook or binder for reference.*

*Thank You,  
Ms. Beth Ragland*

**Please contact Ms. Ragland by email at [beth.ragland@cobbk12.org](mailto:beth.ragland@cobbk12.org) if you have any questions or concerns throughout the semester.**

**Please Complete the Google Docs student survey posted on the class website to complete registration for 9<sup>th</sup> Honors by Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Class Website: <http://bragland.wikispaces.com>**